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CLARE RURAL DISTRICT

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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1950

"Echo" Office, Haverhill.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Clare Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report for the Year 1950 on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Clare Rural District.

It was my privilege in October, to succeed Dr. Arthur Morgan who retired on 30th September 1950, and it is to his work that much of this Report refers.

There does not appear to be a great deal which requires special consideration and where necessary this is given in the substance of the Report.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr. J. Allpress, Clerk of the Council and Mr. H. A. Smith, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for their willing co-operation and assistance in the compilation of this report.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,

August, 1951. *Medical Officer of Health.*

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes	24
Rateable Value	£34,754
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£131
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books ...	2,967
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	9,130
,, (1951 Census)	9,406

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	82	63	145
Illegitimate	6	5	11
Totals ...	88	68	156

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 17.0
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) ... 15.8

Stillbirths :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	4	5

Rate per thousand total (live and still births) 32.0

Deaths :

Male	Female	Total
61	51	112

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population 12.2
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) ... 11.6

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	—	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals ...	5	—	5

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :—

(a)	All infants per 1,000 live births	32.0
(b)	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	34.4
(c)	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
(d)	All infants England and Wales	29.8

	1940	-41	-42	-43	-44	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49	-50
Birth Rates	13.7	14.4	15.8	17.5	37.8	17.2	23.0	19.0	18.6	17.7	17.0
Death Rates	16.8	13.5	15.6	14.5	13.4	13.8	12.6	15.1	13.9	13.3	12.2

CAUSES OF DEATH

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Measles	0	1	1
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	0	0	0
Cancer (all types)	10	7	17
Heart Diseases	19	19	38
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system ...	6	11	17
Influenza	0	2	2
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Bronchitis	4	0	4
Accidents (Motor vehicle) ...	2	0	2
Accidents (all other) ...	6	2	8
Suicide	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	6	16
All causes ...	61	51	112

SECTION B.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :

(*a*) Medical Officer of Health who also serves other districts. (Appointed 1st October 1950).

(*b*) Sanitary Inspectors.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. A. Smith (appointed 1st November 1944).

Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Mr. P. F. Theasby (appointed 9th October 1950) as successor to Mr. D. B. Jones, who left the Council's service in May 1950.

HOSPITALS :

There are no Hospitals in the area.

WATER SUPPLIES :

The Council's three main sources of supply are at Clare, Hundon and Great Wratting.

Clare :

These works are situated on the Upper Common and consist of duplicate boreholes, pumps and oil engines, a 65,000 gallon capacity storage reservoir and two open sand filters.

General overhaul of the engines takes place every six months to ensure as far as possible a constant supply of water, and throughout the year no serious breakdown or shortage has occurred.

The estimated amount of water abstracted from these two boreholes during the 12 months ending 31st October, 1950, amounted to 10,581,468 gallons being 23 gallons per day per head of population supplied, estimated at 1,252 persons.

Maximum combined capacity of the two pumps is 7,000 gallons per hour which does not allow for any excess usage of water from these works.

Following contamination of this water, thought to be through the open sand filters, water was immediately chlorinated and a permanant chlorinator is now in use at the works treating water before it enters the storage reservoir.

A recent analysis of this water shows it to be fit for drinking purposes with a total hardness of 35.14 degrees (grains per gallon).

Hundon :

This supply is from a single borehole. Water being passed through two mechanical sand filters to an underground reservoir North of the village. The village is fed by gravitation from this reservoir supplying about 500 population.

Water is also pumped from the borehole to an elevated tower on Stradishall R.A.F. Station.

Sample results show that a good and wholesome water is being supplied.

Abstraction of water from this borehole during the 12 months ended 31st October, 1950, amounted to 16,139,000 gallons. Water is also drawn from Hundon mains for filling up water tanks throughout the area.

Great Wratting :

A temporary electric pump is in operation here, pumping water from one of the two boreholes to a 12,000 gallon capacity storage tower at Withersfield. This affords a piped supply of water to the Parishes of Gt. and Lt. Bradley, Gt. and Lt. Thurlow, Withersfield and Gt. Wratting.

Pumping from Withersfield Works ceased last year following completion of a new pumping main from Wratting borehole to the Withersfield Tower. This tower was erected some years ago to supply the parish of Withersfield and its capacity is too small for its present use, necessitating the Wratting pump being in action for up to 14 hours per day. This position will, however, be relieved upon completion of your General District Water Scheme, meanwhile the supply is likely to be interrupted from time to time but it is hoped not to any great extent.

General District Scheme:

This scheme when completed will supply all your villages with a piped water supply. The Parishes of Depden, Ousden, Lidgate, Cowlinge and part of Wickhambrook will draw water from a tower to be erected near Depden which will be supplied with water boosted from the proposed Thingoe R.D.C. reservoir, also to be erected near Depden.

The remaining part of the area will be supplied from a new reservoir in course of erection at Hundon Hall, which will receive water pumped from the new Wratting boreholes.

Mains have been laid from Gt. Wratting to Hundon, Lt. Wratting, Kedington, Calford Green, Wixoe and Barnardiston, but at the end of the year had not been put into operation. It is anticipated that during next year water will be available for domestic use in these areas.

WATER CARTING:

This is carried out by Contract and entails carting water from your Hundon supply to 88 tanks positioned throughout the area. Tank sizes range from 200 to 500 gallon capacity, and are of galvanised iron with wooden tops.

The majority of these tanks will not be necessary when the Distict Water Scheme becomes operative.

PUMPS and WELLS:

Of the 32 in the area only 9 produce water fit to drink and where water is unfit to drink notices are displayed on the pumps advising users to boil the water before drinking.

The unfit supplies are gradually being put out of use as mains are being laid under the General District Scheme—six pumps are not now being used.

In addition to the above supplies, 15 houses in the parish of Withersfield are supplied with water from Haverhill U.D. Council mains, and your Council supply in bulk a quantity of water for houses within the U.D.C. area, adjoining the parish of Little Wratting.

A private supply at Stoke-by-Clare gives about 90 families the benefit of a piped water supply.

The number of houses now accepting a supply of water from your mains is given in the following table.

Great Bradley	Parish	...	59 houses	
Little Bradley	,,	...	11 ,,	
Great Thurlow	,,	...	42 ,,	
Little Thurlow	,,	...	63 ,,	
Withersfield	,,	...	135 ,,	(15 by Haverhill U.D.C.)
Great Wratting	,,	...	15 ,,	
Little Wratting	,,	...	18 ,,	
Clare	,,	...	435 ,,	
Hundon	,,	...	150 ,,	
	Total	...	928 ,,	being 31 per cent of the

total number of houses in the area.

It is anticipated next year a further 5 parishes at least will have piped water supplies and further houses in the above parishes will also be supplied.

DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE :

No major works have been installed during the year.

Several small disposal units have been erected in connection with your house building programme.

Whilst the Combined Clare and Cavendish Scheme has been given Ministerial blessing, tenders for its installation have not been invited as yet, and no starting date has been fixed.

The necessity for disposal works and sewers in the majority of villages will undoubtedly become more apparent when houses are provided with a piped water supply, and it is hoped the Council will give serious consideration to such schemes being installed, particularly in the vicinity of your main source of water supply at Great Wratting.

PUBLIC CLEANSING and REFUSE DISPOSAL :

The council have one refuse Collecting Vehicle run by a Driver and Filler. Both employees carry out work of "filling" and both hold a driving licence. Collections from dust bins take place once every fortnight in 14 parishes and one per month in ten parishes.

Collection is confined to bin refuse and is available for 94 per cent of occupied houses within the area.

The vehicle also collects from Pail Closets in Clare and Cavendish villages. Collection takes place after 10 p.m. once every fortnight.

Two refuse tips are at present in use at Clare and Wickhambrook.

The Council hold a stock of dust bins for sale to persons requiring these and, during the year, 38 bins were delivered to houses within the area.

RODENT CONTROL:

Following the coming into operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, a Rodent Operator was appointed by the Council. His duties are whole time inspecting and treating properties including Council owned houses and refuse tips.

RIVERS and STREAMS:

The streams drain the higher boulder clay area into the valley of the River Stour which runs through the district from North to South and then turning Eastwards, forms its Southern boundary. The parishes situated along the course of the river are Great and Little Bradley, Little Thurlow, Great Thurlow, Great Wratting, Kedington, Wixoe, Stoke-by-Clare, Clare and Cavendish and the river receives pollution from all of them. The greatest nuisance, however, is at Clare. It is estimated that the total population of these villages is about 4,000 persons.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA:

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the area:

Housing Matters	896
Sanitary Accommodation and drainage	244
Disinfestation and Infectious Diseases	12
Milk and Dairies	6
Shops and Stores	35
Scavenging and Refuse Disposal	83
Water Supplies	594
Verminous Premises and Persons	17
Factories and Workshops	68
Meat and other foods	40
Other	130

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED:

	Informal.	Defects Remedied.
Dwelling House (structural defects) ...	21 ...	12
Nuisance (not included above)	5 ...	5
Water Supplies	3 ...	3
Drainage (house)	3 ...	3
Privies, Ash-pits and cesspools	4 ...	3

HOUSING :

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :

1.	(*1*)	(*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts.)	283
		(*b*) Number of inspections made for this purpose.	341
	(*2*)	(*a*) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (*1*) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	283
		(*b*) Number of inspections made for this purpose	341
	(*3*)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	37
	(*4*)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	144
2.		Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—	
		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	15
3		Action under Statutory Powers during the year :	
		(*a*) Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
		(*a*) Section 9	Nil
		(*b*) Section 11	Nil
		(*c*) Section 12	Nil
		(*b*) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
		(*1*) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
		(*2*) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	
		(*a*) By owners	Nil
		(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners.	Nil

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION of FOOD :

Milk Supply :

Retail premises registered	5
Pasteurised licences in force :	
Supplementary	2
Dealers	2

Meat and other Foods :

Licensed slaughter-houses used for occasional slaughtering only... 10

Meat is distributed to the different butchers from a central slaughter-house situated in an adjoining area.

There are two Registered Knackers' Yards one at Clare and the other at Ousden.

Unsound Food :

The following amounts of foodstuffs unfit for human consumption have been dealt with :—

Meat	125	lbs.
Tinned Food	85	lbs.
Eggs (dried)	63	lbs.
Cheese	80	lbs.
Cereals	1½	lbs.
Fats (cooking)	36	lbs.
Tea	40	lbs.
Butter	84	lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There are 23 licensed slaughtermen in the area. Licences are granted for a period of 12 months and the licensing fee is 1/-.

Fried Fish Shops

There are two in the district, one at Clare and one at Cavendish.

Ice Cream Premises

No ice cream is manufactured in the area.

Six premises are registered to sell ice cream in the area.

Infectious Disease

Three houses have been fumigated following removal to hospital of persons suffering from infectious diseases.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of the Notifiable Diseases during the year 1950, is low and calls for no special comment.

Infective Hepatitis is also notifiable in this District. Seven cases were notified of which number, six were from Wickhambrook. Measles was the cause of one death.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1 Year	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25 and over	Un-known Age	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	1	11	4	—	1	—	17
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	3	1	8	7	3	—	—	—	22
Measles.. ..	—	1	3	5	4	1	1	—	15
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
TOTALS	3	2	12	23	11	1	7	0	59

SECTION D.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Number of cases on the register at the end of the year	20	11	31	2	4	6	8
Number of Deaths during the year	—	—	—	1	—	1	1

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION E.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I. of the Act.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Number of Written notices (5)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	4	5	1		1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	35	40	4		2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3					3
TOTAL		39	45	5	Nil	

2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	2	2				4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(*a*) insufficient	9	2	2				9
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	10	3	3				10
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	11						11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12						12
TOTAL	60	7	7				60

Outwork.

32 persons are recorded as doing out work. All are employed in the making of wearing apparel. No action was necessary under either section during the year.

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.